



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢ 34
IND. JULY

the X-MEN

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Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. Fool teacher, friends and family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist." No. 137 25c

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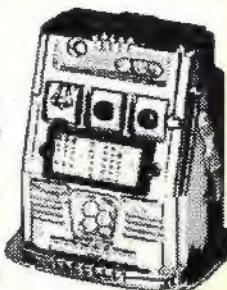
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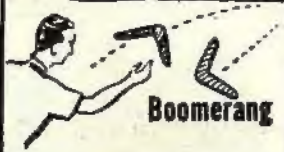
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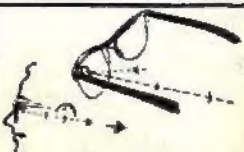
Here's something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo! you're all set to "fire" again. More fun than a "barrel of monkeys." No. 141 75c

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EXHAUST WHISTLE



CRAZY NOISE CAR GAG

Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car... then watch him when he starts the engine! The howls and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or fall apart—while you roar with laughter. No. 7193 50c

WORMS

Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victim's face? It's harmless. No. 612 15c



ONION GUM

Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like... like... ONIONS! Its too funny! 12 slices to a pack. No. 281 20c

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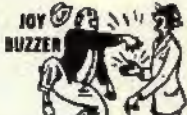
Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2 1/2 ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film. No. 788 \$1.00 6 Rolls Film 98c



WHOOPEE CUSHION



Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings. No. 247 50c



JOY BUZZER

The most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless. No. 239 Only 50c

X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$1.00



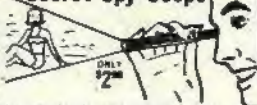
Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. No. FL7 \$1.00

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!

"WAR" IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS!

PROFESSOR X HAS BEEN CAPTURED!!

THOSE FIVE WORDS ALONE SUFFICE TO EXPLAIN THE FEELING OF NAMELESS DREAD WHICH HANGS LIKE A TAPESTRY OF FEAR OVER X-MEN HQ! BUT, FOR SUCH AS THESE, TO DREAD IS NOT TO DESPAIR...

FEATURING:
THE MATCHLESS MALEVOLENCE OF THE MACABRE MOLE MAN—AND THE RUTHLESS ENTITY KNOWN AS... **TYRANNUS!**

WE'LL FIND THE PROFESSOR—WE'VE GOT TO! UNFORTUNATELY, WHOEVER ABDONDED WITH HIM ALSO HAD TIME TO WRECK OUR JUST-REPAIRED CEREBRO!

IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN SEASON ON MUTANT-LOCATING MACHINES!

STILL HANK THAT CONFIRMS OUR THEORY THAT FACTOR THREE IS COMPOSED LARGELY OF EVIL MUTANTS!

THEY WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE DON'T FIND THEM—BEFORE THEY'RE READY TO MAKE THEIR BID FOR WORLD CONQUEST!

AND, IF THEY SUCCEED IN SOMEHOW GAINING PROFESSOR XAVIER'S KNOWLEDGE, THEY MIGHT JUST MAKE IT!

STAN LEE
PROUDLY PRESENTS
A PANORAMIC PANOPLY
OF PAGE-SETTING PINNACLES:

A NEW KIND OF
SCRIPTING SUPREMACY BY:
ROY THOMAS!

A NEW HEIGHT IN
ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT BY:
DAN ADKINS!

THE SAME OLD
LETTERING BY:
J. FELDMANN

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YET, EVEN THE LOVELY MUTANT IS UNPREPARED FOR THE WORDS SHE ACTUALLY HEARS...

JEAN! THIS IS TED-- I'M AT MY BROTHER'S RESEARCH LABS!

RALPH'S BEEN CAPTURED! YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE X-MEN OVER HERE-- TO HELP ME RESCUE HIM!



BUT, WHAT HAPPENED? AND, WHY DO YOU THINK I CAN REACH THE X-MEN--?

PLEASE, JEAN-- I'VE NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! JUST TRY TO GET THEM HERE-- RIGHT AWAY!!



KLUK!

TED! ARE YOU THERE, TED?

HE HUNG UP! AND, HE'S HARDLY THE KIND TO PULL A STUNT, JUST TO GET ME TO REVEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY!

IF HE SAYS HIS BROTHER RALPH WAS CAPTURED IT MUST BE TRUE! BUT, --CAPTURED BY WHOM??

THUS IT IS THAT, SCANT SECONDS AFTERWARD...



NUTS! NO USE TRYING TO SLEEP-- NOT WHILE THE PROFESSOR'S IN DANGER! I--

THE PHONE! BUT, WHO'D BE CALLING AT THIS HOUR?

WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'D BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE!

AND MARVEL GIRL HAS PRECISELY THAT! FOR, A FEW MINUTES LATER...



MOVE, BOBBY! JEAN SAID IT WAS URGENT!

OH WELL, I WAS TIRED OF COUNTIN' SHEEP, ANYWAY!

BUT, WHAT ABOUT SCOTTY AND HANK!

WE WON'T DISTURB THEM UNLESS WE HAVE TO! CEREBRO'S GOTTA BE FIXED!

WHW! WE REALIZE OUR STORY IS JUMPING AROUND PRANTICALLY, FAITHFUL ONE-- BUT, BEAR WITH US! ANY PAGE NOW, WE'LL SETTLE DOWN TO A DEAD HEAT!

BEFORE LONG, IN A SECLUDED AREA NEAR METRO COLLEGE...



HOP ABOARD, JEANIE! WE GOT HERE AS FAST AS WE COULD!

IT'S A GOOD THING OUR PLANE IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTO-GIRO HOVERING DEVICE -- SINCE OUR COPTER GOT SMASHED!

STILL, I'D BETTER GET ON AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!!

WE DON'T WANT ANY LATE-NIGHT STROLLERS TO FIND OUT THAT MARVEL GIRL IS ONE OF THE CAMPUS CO-EDS!

SOON, THE SMALL JET PLANE IS STREAKING ABOVE THE WATERS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND-- NOT TO MENTION THE GROUNDS OF THE FAST-GROWING ROBERTS RESEARCH, INC. ...

YOU KNOW, BOYS, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME--RALPH WAS ON TV THE OTHER DAY, TALKING ABOUT A NEW GOVERNMENT PROJECT!

COULD FACTOR THREE HAVE DECIDED TO CAPTURE HIM, TOO?

I DON'T KNOW, JEAN! I JUST WANT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS--SO WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON FINDING THE PROFESSOR!

IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY THAT RALPH ROBERTS HAD AMNESIA-- AND ATTACKED US AS THE COBALT MAN!*

AND NOW, HIS BROTHER SAYS HE'S IN SOME KINDA DANGER! I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?

*ACTUALLY, IT WAS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO--IN X-MEN #31! --STICKLER STAN.

THEN, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THE X-MEN! THANK HEAVEN YOU'VE COME! BUT, THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF YOU!

THE OTHERS WILL BE HERE IF WE NEED THEM, TED! NOW, WHAT--?

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! RALPH--HE'S GONE--TAKEN AS A PRISONER TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!

HUH? SLOW DOWN A BIT, FELLA!

YEAH! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER START THE STORY FROM SCRATCH!

ALRIGHT--BUT, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME! IF RALPH DOESN'T DO WHAT HE'S TOLD BY TYRANNUS--HE'LL BE KILLED BEFORE WE CAN RESCUE HIM!

TYRANNUS? WE'VE HEARD RUMORS OF A GUY BY THAT NAME--THE RULER OF A WORLD BENEATH THE EARTH! BUT, WE THOUGHT THEY WERE LEGENDS--

AND, I'M TELLING YOU THEY'RE TRUE! TYRANNUS EXISTS!

WE AGREED I WOULDN'T SPEAK MUCH--TO PROTECT MY IDENTITY! YET, TED'S SO UNNERVED--HE HARDLY NOTICES ME!

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED! THEN, MAYBE YOU'LL BELIEVE ME!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

ON SALE NOW!

WHO SAYS A COMIC BOOK HAS TO BE GOOD??

NOT BRAND ECHH™

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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

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1
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MARVEL
UNLEASHED
IT AT
LAST!

WOTTA
REVOLTIN'
DEVELOPMENT!

IT'S
ABSD!

IT'S
INSANE!

IT'S...

FORBUSH
MAN!

THE
COMIC
MAGAZINE
FOR
NON-BELIEVERS
WHO HATE
COMIC
MAGAZINES!

"ABSOLUTELY THE FUNNIEST,
MOST SATIRICAL HUMOR I
EVER READ OR WROTE!"
- STAN LEE

"FUNNY, THAT'S JUST WHAT
I WAS GONNA SAY!"
- ROY THOMAS

"IT'S A RIP-ROARIN' RIOT... I
ALMOST SMILED ONCE OR TWICE!"
- GARY FRIEDRICH

"THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!
...SO WE DIDN'T DO IT!"
- SOL BRODKEY

'NUFF SAID!

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12 or older

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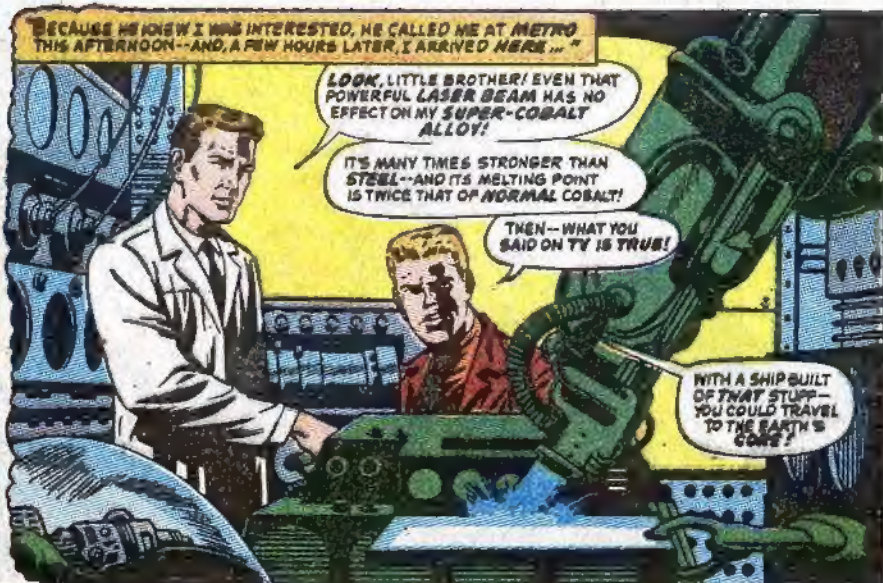
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AS YOU KNOW, RALPH'S EXPERIMENTS DEAL MAINLY WITH COBALT--AND HIS ATTEMPTS TO CREATE EVER-STRONGER ALLOYS OF IT!

WELL, JUST LAST WEEK HE MADE A SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH!



BECAUSE HE KNEW I WAS INTERESTED, HE CALLED ME AT METRO THIS AFTERNOON--AND, A FEW HOURS LATER, I ARRIVED HERE...

LOOK, LITTLE BROTHER! EVEN THAT POWERFUL LASER BEAM HAS NO EFFECT ON MY SUPER-COBALT ALLOY!

IT'S MANY TIMES STRONGER THAN STEEL--AND ITS MELTING POINT IS TWICE THAT OF NORMAL COBALT!

THEN--WHAT YOU SAID ON TV IS TRUE!

WITH A SHIP BUILT OF THAT STUFF-- YOU COULD TRAVEL TO THE EARTH'S CORE!

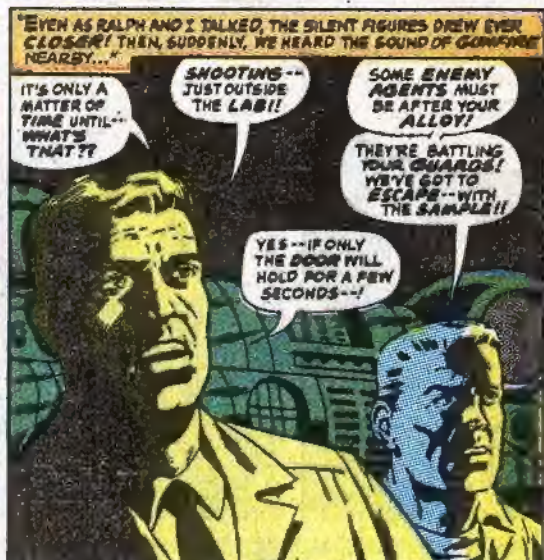


WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW--WHAT I COULDN'T SUSPECT--WAS THAT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE INCREDIBLE HAD HAPPENED! THE EARTH'S CORE--WAS COMING TO US...

HURRY, YOU MINDLESS DOLTS!

IN THAT BUILDING IS THE ONE WE HAVE COME SO FAR TO CAPTURE!

WE HEAR AND OBEY, EXCELLENCY!



EVEN AS RALPH AND I TALKED, THE SILENT FIGURES DREW EVER CLOSER! THEN, SUDDENLY, WE HEARD THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE NEARBY...

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL-- WHAT'S THAT??

SHOOTING-- JUST OUTSIDE THE LAB!!

SOME ENEMY AGENTS MUST BE AFTER YOUR ALLOY!

THEY'RE BATTLING YOUR GUARDS! WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE--WITH THE SAMPLE!!

YES--IF ONLY THE DOOR WILL HOLD FOR A FEW SECONDS--!



BUT, BEFORE RALPH COULD FINISH--



THE GUARDS ARE FINISHED! AND, THERE IS THE ONE WE SEEK!

TAKE HIM--ALIVE! HE SHALL BECOME MY SLAVE!!



DESPERATELY, I RUSHED FORWARD, BUT--

FOOL--YOU ARE OF NO VALUE TO ME!

IT'S THE OTHER WHO SHALL CONQUER A WORLD FOR TYRANNUS!

BAM!

NO! YOU CAN'T-- UNNNNNNN!

"I WENT DOWN FOR THE COUNT--TO THE SOUNDS OF STRUMBLE IN A SEA OF VOICES..."



THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER! THE GUARDS REVIVED FIRST--AND WOKE ME!

SO--I'VE FOULED UP AGAIN! GLASS-JAW ROBERTS--OUT LIKE A LIGHT FROM ONE PUNCH!



ONLY SOMEONE WHO WAS MORE THAN HUMAN COULD SURVIVE AT THE EARTH'S CORE! YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!

WE MUTANTS JUST MIGHT, THO--IF ONLY WE HAD A WAY OF GETTING THERE--!

THAT'S JUST IT! YOU DO!!



THEN, AS THE GRIM FOURSOME HEAD FOR A HIGHLY-RESTRICTED SECTION OF THE NEW BUILDING...



HOWEVER, SECONDS LATER, ALL SUCH THOUGHTS ARE FORGOTTEN, AS ...

HOLY HANNAH! IF THAT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS--!!

IT'S AN ATOMIC-POWERED EARTH-BORER--FITTED WITH PLATES OF RALPH'S NEW SUPER-COBALT!

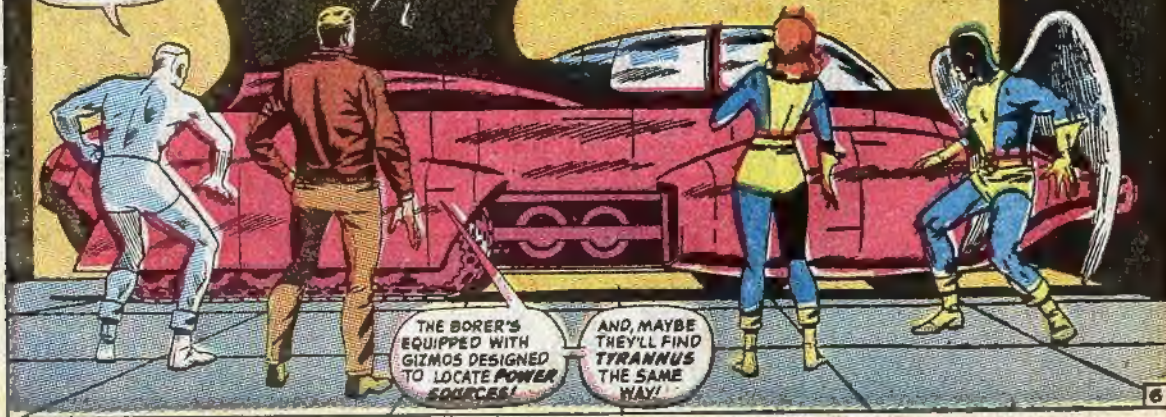
HE SAID HE HADN'T TESTED IT YET--BUT WE MUST TRY IT!

WE MUST!

STILL, HOW WILL WE FIND TYRANNUS--AND RALPH?

SHE'S GOT A GOOD POINT THERE, TED!

I HOPE YOU'VE GOT AN EQUALLY GOOD ANSWER!



MOMENTS AFTERWARD, NOT FAR FROM THE LAB...

LOOK! I GOT A GEIGER COUNTER WHILE I WAITED FOR YOU--AND IT LED ME STRAIGHT TO THIS FIFTY-FOOT PIT!

TYRANNUS MUST HAVE GONE DOWN AT THIS POINT--AND FILLED MOST OF THE TUNNEL IN AFTER HIM!

BUT--WITH THE EARTH-BORER, MAYBE WE COULD OPEN IT UP AGAIN!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE--WE'VE GOTTA TRY!

FOR MUCH MORE THAN EVEN ALPHY'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!

THIS CAPTOR LEARNS THE SECRET OF THAT SUPER-HARD ALLOY--HE MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO INVADE THE SURFACE WORLD!

ALRIGHT, PEOPLE--IT'S MOMENT-OF-TRUTH TIME! WHEN I PRESS THIS BUTTON--WE MOVE OUT!

3--2--1--

ZERO!

I JUST CHECKED OUT THE SHIP ANGEL! IT LOOKS PRETTY SIMPLE TO OPERATE--

THAT WORKS OUT JUST FINE... CAUSE TED'S GOT TO STAY HERE AND ACT AS OUR CONTACT MAN!

BUT IT'S ONLY GOT ROOM FOR A CREW OF THREE!

ME STAY HERE? NOTHIN' DOING! I--

IT'S THE ONLY WAY, TED! YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN SURVIVE DOWN THERE!

A CORPSE WON'T DO YOUR BROTHER ANY GOOD!

OKAY, I'LL PLAY YOUR WAY! BUT, I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT!

THEN, IN THE NEXT FEW FATEFUL MINUTES, WARREN WORTHINGTON'S AUTOMOBILE KNOW-HOW SERVES HIM IN GOOD STEAD...

THIS GO-BUGGY ISN'T EXACTLY MY MUSTANG--BUT, I THINK I'LL GET THE HANG OF IT FAST ENOUGH!

LIKE A CHARM, DRIVER-MAN! JUST ONE LITTLE QUESTION, IF YOU DON'T MIND--

I'LL KEEP YOU ADVISED ON DEPTH READING, SCOTT!

GOOD, GIRL! HOW'S THE GEIGER-SCOPE WORKING, CEMAN?

WHEN WE FIND TYRANNUS AND HIS PLAYMATES--THEN WHAT??

DO UNTO OTHERS AS THEY WOULD DO UNTO YOU--ONLY DO IT FIRST!

AT THE YOUNG MUTANT'S TOUCH, THE STRANGE VEHICLE LUMBERS FORWARD--OUT OF THE LAB--AND TOWARDS THE YAWNING CHASM...

SCOTTY--THE BORER'S GOIN' OVER THE EDGE TOO FAST!!

I'M COUNTING ON ITS SUCTION-TIPPED TREADS TO HOLD US, BOBBY!

IF THEY DON'T--

BUT WE ARE DESTINED NEVER TO HEAR THE ANGEL'S DIRE FOREBODINGS-- FOR THE NEXT MICROSECOND...



YOU DID IT, WARRY!!

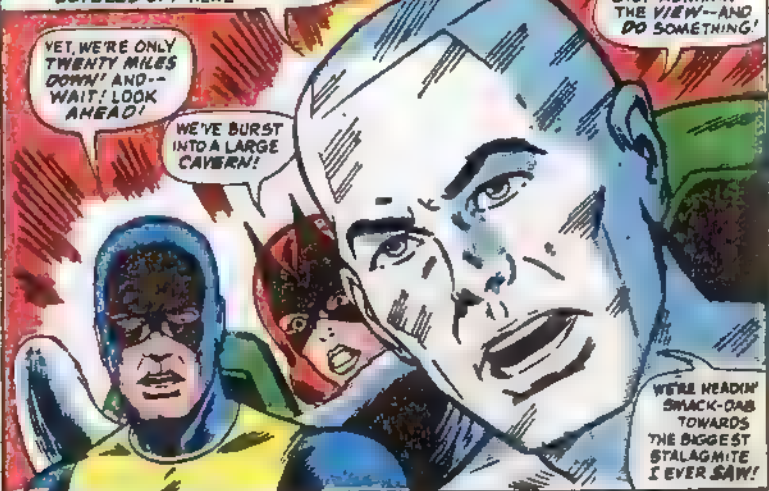
THOSE NUTTY TREADS-- THEY'RE HOLDING!

THAT ISN'T ALL, BOBBY! TAKE A PEAK AT THE JOB OUR FRONTAL LASER'S DOING!

IT'S BLASTING THROUGH THE DIRT AND ROCKS AHEAD LIKE THEY WERE COTTON!

FOR LONG, ANXIOUS MINUTES, THE UNIQUE CRAFT MOVES DOWNWARD--EVER DOWNWARD--AT A STEADY, DELIBERATE RATE! THEN, SUDDENLY--

UH OH! LOOK ALIVE, CREW! ACCORDING TO THE 'SCOPE TYRANNUS' SHIP MUSTA' LEVELED OFF HERE!



YET, WE'RE ONLY TWENTY MILES DOWN! AND-- WAIT! LOOK AHEAD!

WE'VE BURST INTO A LARGE CAVERN!

STOP ADMIRIN' THE VIEW--AND DO SOMETHING!

WE'RE HEADIN' SWACK-DAB TOWARDS THE BIGGEST STALAGMITE I EVER SAW!



HOLY HANNAH! EVEN THE LASER WON'T TAKE OUT ALL OF THAT BABY FAST ENOUGH!

BRACE YOURSELVES, X-MEN! WE'RE GONNA HIT...!

SKIP!



AND, HIT THEY DO! YET, SCANTS MOMENTS LATER, THREE UNHARMED FIGURES SCRAMBLE FROM THE ONLY SLIGHTLY-DAMAGED EARTH-BORER...

THIS CAVERN IS HUGE--SEEMINGLY ENDLESS! IT MUST EXTEND FOR MILES--UNSUSPECTED BY THE EARTH ABOVE!

A LAND OF PERPETUAL TWILIGHT--YET BATHED IN AN EERIE EMERALD GLOW! IT'S LIKE ANOTHER WORLD!

YEAH--ONE STRAIGHT OUT OF A JULES VERNE YARN!

NOW I KNOW HOW ALICE FELT WHEN SHE FELL DOWN THAT RABBIT-HOLE! WHAT IS THIS PLACE ANYWAY?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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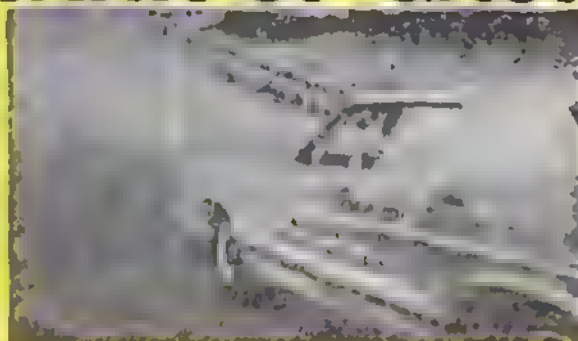
-even more startling, now save up to \$10 a month,
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UP TO 500 MILES OF DRIVING
FROM A SINGLE TANK OF GAS

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I Y MOORE BUCH
 M. CARRUTHERS, NOW
 FINE THE LAB
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 NEW YORK - IT FEEL IN
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 IS THAT THE A REA - MORE

[illegible]

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INSTALLING THE COMPUTER -
TAKES FOR FEELS IS AS LITTLE
AS 15 DAYS

[illegible]

THIS OFFER EXPIRES IN
 TO DATE YOU MAY GET NEW
 CHAMBER
 IN THE

Please ask me the same way! C.T. Fenger Chamber turned off. I understand the process of the high 10,000 cash check or money order. If you purchase a 10,000 I may return the cash anytime for full purchase price refund if I am not satisfied.

Male of Cat.

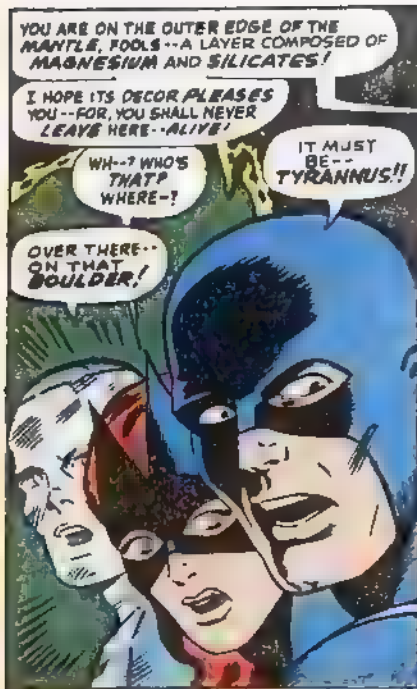
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NAME _____

AD-0155

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YOU ARE ON THE OUTER EDGE OF THE MANTLE, FOOLS--A LAYER COMPOSED OF MAGNESIUM AND SILICATES!

I HOPE ITS DECOR PLEASURES YOU--FOR, YOU SHALL NEVER LEAVE HERE--ALIVE!

WH--? WHO'S THAT? WHERE--?

IT MUST BE-- TYRANNUS!!

OVER THERE-- ON THAT BOULDER!



WHAT?? YOU DARE CALL ME BY THAT ACCURSED NAME?

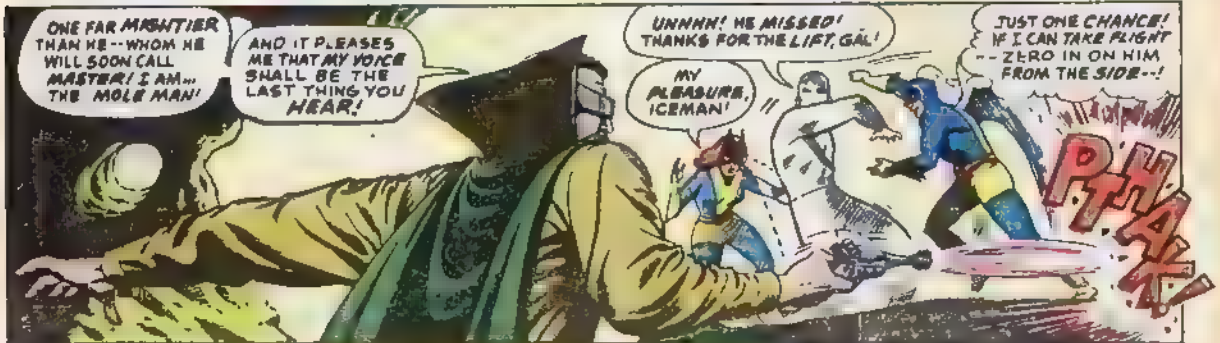
FOR THAT, YOU SHALL PERISH SLOWLY-- AFTER YOU CRY OUT FOR MERCY!

THAT MAY! IT HIT A LARGE ROCK IN FRONT OF ME--AND DISINTEGRATED IT!

WHAT'S MORE, IF WE DON'T SPLIF IT MIGHT JUST DO THE SAME TO US!

YET--IF HE ISN'T TYRANNUS-- THEN WHO IS HE?

ZZIT!



ONE FAR MIGHTIER THAN HE--WHOM HE WILL SOON CALL MASTER! I AM... THE MOLE MAN!

AND IT PLEASURES ME THAT MY VOICE SHALL BE THE LAST THING YOU HEAR!

UNNNH! HE MISSED! THANKS FOR THE LIFT, GAL!

MY PLEASURE, ICEMAN!

JUST ONE CHANCE! IF I CAN TAKE FLIGHT-- ZERO IN ON HIM FROM THE SIDE--!

PHAK!



AND...

IT WORKED! I GOT HIM--BEFORE HE COULD FIRE THAT POPGUN AGAIN!

YOU DARE TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON HIM, WHO SHALL SOON BE RULER OF THE EARTH?

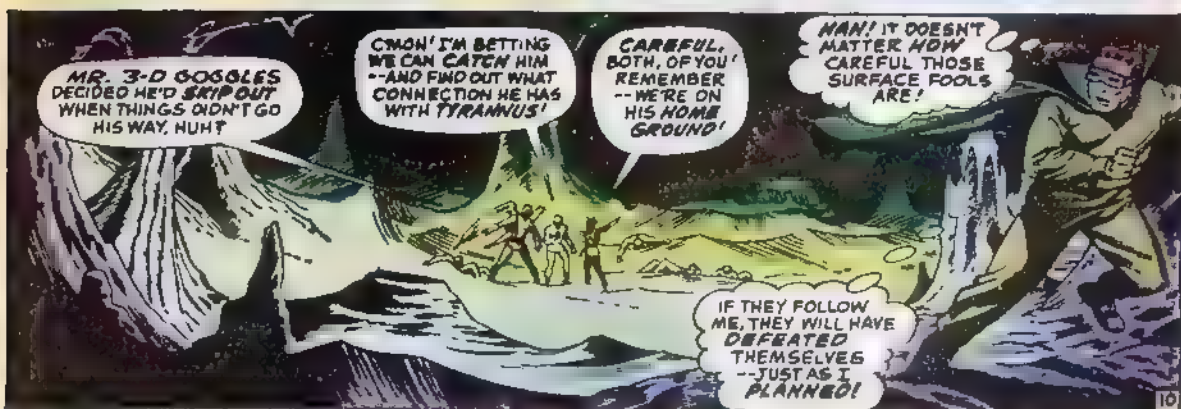
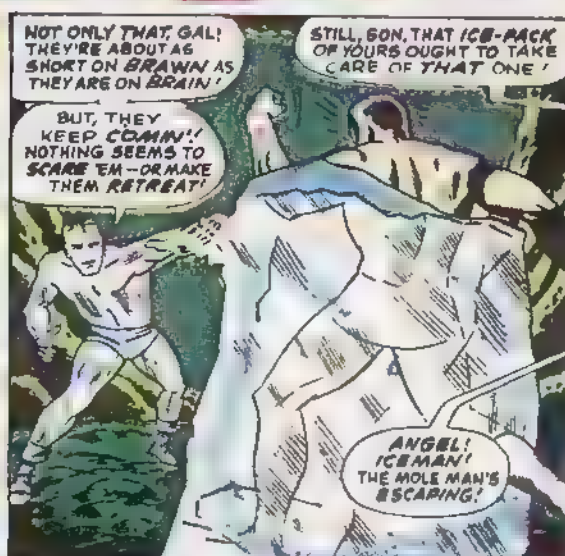
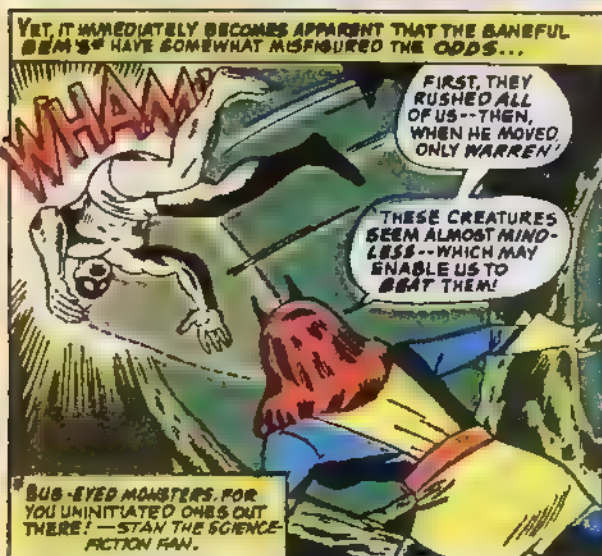
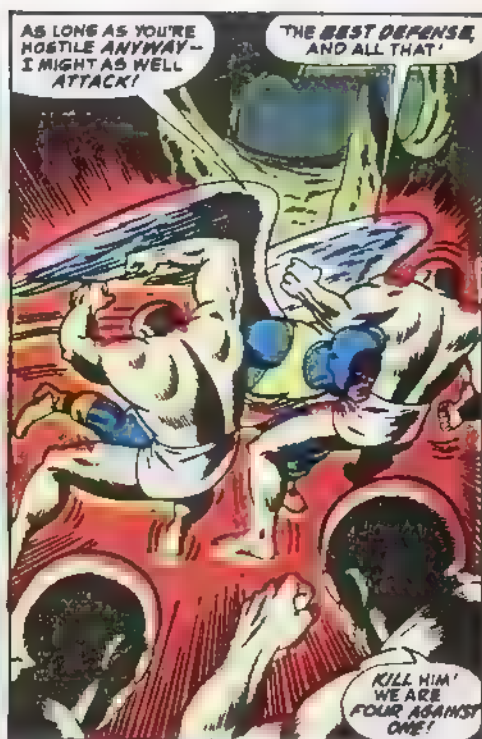
BUT THEN, AS THE VIOLENTLY STRA NING MOLE MAN BREAKS AWAY FROM ANGEL'S GRIP...

COME, MY SUBJECTS! PROTECT YOUR BELOVED RULER FROM THESE INTRUDERS!

HURRY, YOU WITLESS NON-ENTITIES--OR YOUR PUNISHMENT SHALL BE BEYOND DESCRIPTION!

UH OH! WHAT'S HE CALLING IN NOW--THE SECOND STRING??

MISTER, YOU GURE DO A LOT OF DARNIN'S! I ALMOST FEEL I OUGHTTA SAY "MOTHER MAY I?"



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE PURSUING TEENAGERS ROUND A BEND IN THE TWILIGHT GLOOM...

"THE MOLE MAN'S GONE... VANISHED!"

HE PROBABLY KNOWS THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND! HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!

YET, HE ACTED LIKE HE WANTED US TO FOLLOW HIM!

AND THIS UNDERGROUND STREAM HE LED US TO-- WHAT'S THAT MIST RISING FROM IT?

IT MAKES ME FEEL... STRANGE!

SUDDENLY... CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER... WHY WE CAME HERE--OR EVEN WHERE WE ARE!

IN FACT, WHO AM I? AND WHO ARE YOU TWO?

I... I DON'T KNOW, EITHER! IT'S AS IF I JUST CAME INTO EXISTENCE!

IN A SENSE YOU DID, FEMALE-- WHEN YOU BREATHED THE MAGIC MISTS OF THE RIVER LETHE!!

BUT NOW, WHILE YOU OVERST THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT FATEFUL REMARK FROM STAGE RIGHT-- WHAT ABOUT RALPH ROBERTS, THE MAN WHOM THE 11-STARRED TRIO SET OUT TO RESCUE?

PUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK, FRANTIC ONE

WORK FASTER, SLAVE! SOON MY LONG-STANDING RIVALRY WITH THE ACCURSED MOLE MAN SHALL BE AT AN END!

RECENTLY, HE DEVELOPED A GIANT ROBOT OF SOLID DIAMOND--SO I MUST HAVE ONE COATED WITH YOUR NEW EVEN STRONGER SUPER-COBALT ALLOY!

AND IF I DON'T COOPERATE WITH YOU--I'LL BE DESTROYED!

THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE! BUT I WARN YOU, MY NEW ALLOY HAS NOT YET BEEN TESTED OVER LONG PERIODS

SILENCE, FOOL AND ACTIVATE MY ROBOT!

AH--IT MOVES! MY INDESTRUCTIBLE CREATION LIVES!

YES--AND MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON US ALL!

TYRANNUS LEFT ME NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY HIM OR DIE! HIS ROBOT WAS ALREADY COMPLETED--NEEDING ONLY A COATING OF MY SUPER-HARD COBALT AS ARMOR!

BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW ONE THING...

JUST THEN, THE COMMANDING VOICE OF TYRANNUS RINGS OUT...

LET THE ROBOT HALT! I SHALL USE HIM LATER--WHEN THE INVENTION OF MY FOE ATTACKS!

NOW THAT I'VE DONE YOUR DIRTY WORK--LET ME GO!

MAY! LATER I SHALL INVADE YOUR WORLD--AND YOU CAN EQUIP AN ARMY OF INVINCIBLE WARRIORS FOR ME!

NEVER! I'LL DIE FIRST!

THAT, TOO, CAN BE ARRANGED--IMPETUOUS ONE!

WHILE NOT FAR ABOVE...

THE NEXT SECOND, BEFORE AN ANGRY RALPH ROBERTS CAN LEAP FORWARD...

SO--YOU WOULD DARE LIFT YOUR HAND AGAINST THE PRESENCE IMPERIAL!?

FOR THAT, YOU SHALL KNOW THE DARK DARKNESS OF THE ROYAL DUNGEON--UNTIL YOU SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME! TAKE HIM AWAY!

DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, PAL!

COME, PRISONER--WHILE YOU YET CAN!

GOT TO PLAY ALONG--HOPE FOR A CHANCE TO ACT!

SOON AS THE TWO INTREPID X-MEN COMPLETE THEIR PERILOUS DESCENT

IT'S FORTUNATE THAT WARREN JOTTED DOWN HIS DESTINATION, EH, SCOTTY?

YES HANK! MEMO PADS ARE HANDY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

WHOOPS! STEADY WITH THAT ROPE, BIG FELLA! IT'S STILL A LONG WAY DOWN!

GREAT GOING, MR. MCCOY! YOU SPOTTED THE EARTH-BORER'S TRACKS LIKE A HAWK!

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR CYCLOPS--SINCE TED HAD THOROUGHLY DESCRIBED THEM TO ME!

I WONDER WHERE OUR COMRADES--AT ARMS WERE HEADING!

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, HANK

BUT, FROM WHAT TED TOLD US ABOUT THAT CHARACTER CALLED TYRANNUS, THEY MIGHT JUST NEED A HAND!

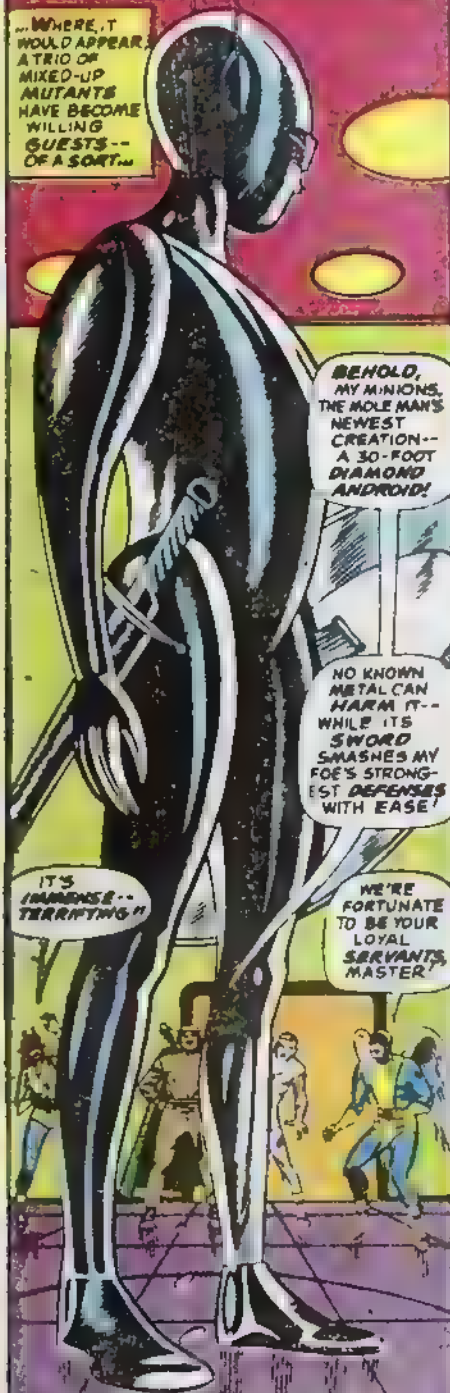
AND THE BOUNTIFULLY-ENDOWED BEAST IS PREPARED TO LEND THEM ONE--ECONOMY-SIZED!

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN! WE'VE GOT TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

THAT, MR. SUMMERS IS INDEED THE MOST SUPERFLUOUS OF SUGGESTIONS!

MEANWHILE, LET'S LOOK IN ON THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT CASTLE OF THE MACABRE MOLE MAN--

...WHERE, IT WOULD APPEAR, A TRIO OF MIXED-UP MUTANTS HAVE BECOME WILLING GUESTS-- OF A SORT...



BEHOLD, MY MINIONS, THE MOLE MAN'S NEWEST CREATION-- A 30-FOOT DIAMOND ANDROID!

NO KNOWN METAL CAN HARM IT-- WHILE ITS SWORD SMASHES MY Foe'S STRONGEST DEFENSES WITH EASE!

IT'S IMMENSE-- TERRIFYING!!

WE'RE FORTUNATE TO BE YOUR LOYAL SERVANTS, MASTER!

HAH! THE RIVER LETNE-- WHICH CAUSES MEN TO FORGET THEIR VERY IDENTITIES--HAS EVER BEEN DELVED A MYTH BY THE SURFACE MULTITUDES!

HOW IRONIC THAT NOW THRU ITS MYSTERIOUS MISTS, I HAVE GAINED CONTROL OF THREE X-MEN... WHILE USING AN OXYGEN MASK TO AVOID FALLING UNDER ITS SPELL MYSELF!

HEED MY WORDS, SLAVES! FOR MANY DAYS MY DIAMOND CREATURE HAS WRECKED HAVOC UPON MY ENEMY'S FORCES!

WITHIN THE HOUR, IT SHALL MAKE ITS FINAL, CONCLUSIVE ATTACK-- WITH THE THREE OF YOU BY ITS SIDE--UPON THE STRONGHOLD OF TYRANNUS!

TYRANNUS!? HOW FAMILIAR THAT NAME SEEMS TO ME--!

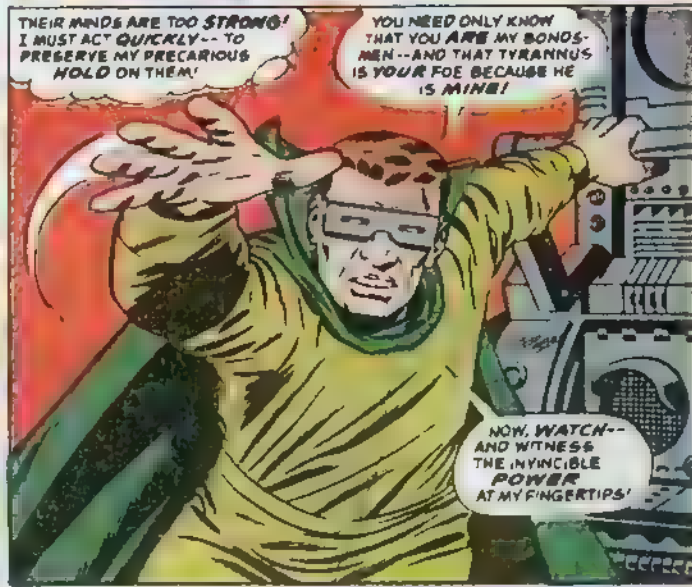
I ONLY WE COULD REMEMBER--!



IT SEEMS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO A MISSION-- BUT WHAT BUSINESS HAVE SLAVES WITH A MISSION?

THEIR HANDS ARE TOO STRONG! I MUST ACT QUICKLY-- TO PRESERVE MY PRECARIOUS HOLD ON THEM!

YOU NEED ONLY KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY BONDSMEN--AND THAT TYRANNUS IS YOUR Foe BECAUSE HE IS MINE!

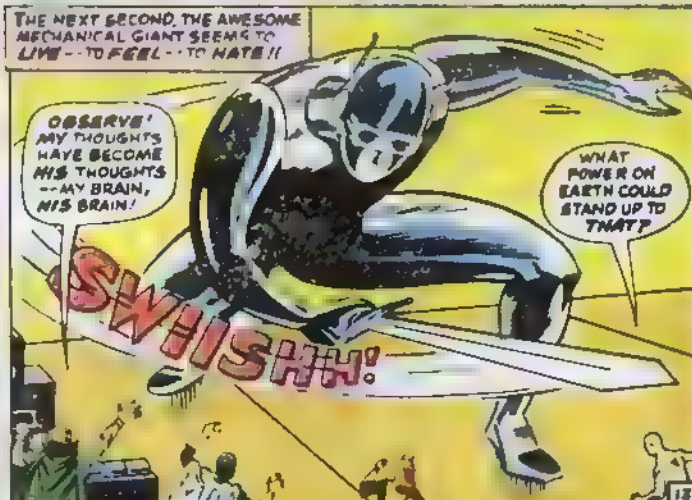


NOW, WATCH-- AND WITNESS THE INVINCIBLE POWER AT MY FINGERTIPS!

THE NEXT SECOND, THE AWESOME MECHANICAL GIANT SEEMS TO LIVE-- TO FEEL-- TO HATE!!

OBSERVE! MY THOUGHTS HAVE BECOME HIS THOUGHTS-- MY BRAIN, HIS BRAIN!

WHAT POWER ON EARTH COULD STAND UP TO THAT?



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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THEN, AT THE MEREST TOUCH OF A BUTTON, THE GLEAMING ENGINE OF OBSTRUCTION BECOMES ONCE MORE A MOTIONLESS STATUE...



NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF MY MIGHT, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO STRIKE--FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE MOLE MAN!

MY EVERY COMMAND SHALL BE INSTANTLY RELAYED TO YOU THRU THE ANDROID--AND YOU SHALL UNHEEDINGLY OBEY IT!

WE EXIST ONLY TO SERVE YOU, MASTER!

YOUR FOES ARE OUR FOES!

WE FIGHT--FOR THE MOLE MAN!

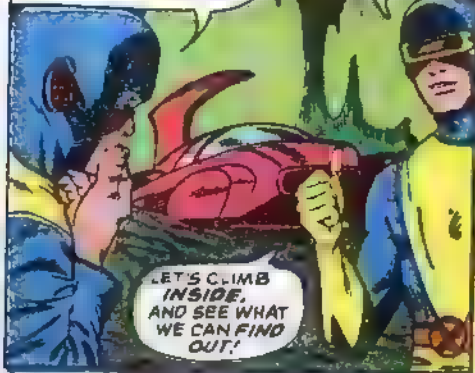
GOOD! THEY REMAIN FULLY MY SUPER-POWERED Pawns!

YET, I WONDER WHERE THE OTHER X-MEN ARE?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'D KINDA LIKE TO KNOW THAT OURSELVES! AND SO, WITH A MYSTIC WAVE OF THE MIGHTY MARVEL MAGIC WAND...

HMMM... OUR COLLEAGUES APPARENTLY WENT NO FURTHER IN THE EARTH-BORER THAN THEY COULD SKID!

STRANGE... BECAUSE THE SHIP SEEMS HARDLY DAMAGED!

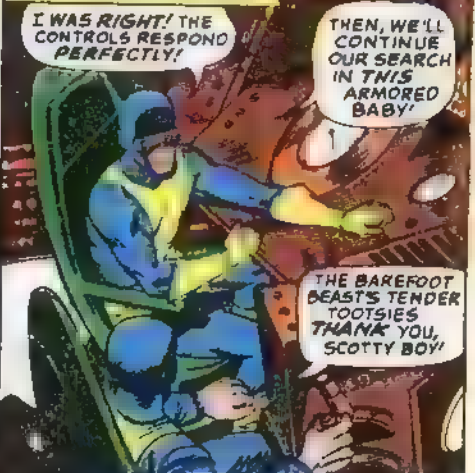


LET'S CLIMB INSIDE, AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT!

SCANT MOMENTS LATER...

I WAS RIGHT! THE CONTROLS RESPOND PERFECTLY!

THEN, WE'LL CONTINUE OUR SEARCH IN THIS ARMORED BABY!



THE BAREFOOT BEAST'S TENDER TOOTSIES THANK YOU, SCOTTY BOY!

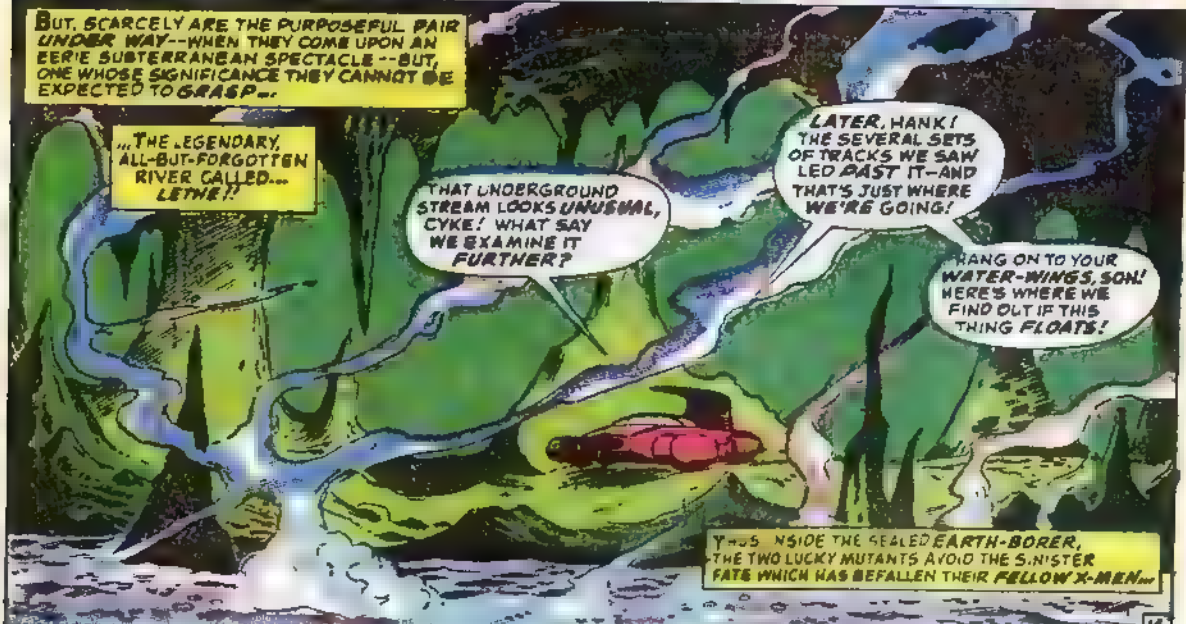
BUT, SCARCELY ARE THE PURPOSEFUL PAIR UNDER WAY--WHEN THEY COME UPON AN EERIE SUBTERRANEAN SPECTACLE--BUT, ONE WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE THEY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO GRASP...

...THE LEGENDARY, ALL-BUT-FORGOTTEN RIVER CALLED... LETHE!!

THAT UNDERGROUND STREAM LOOKS UNUSUAL, CYKE! WHAT SAY WE EXAMINE IT FURTHER?

LATER, HANK! THE SEVERAL SETS OF TRACKS WE SAW LED PAST IT--AND THAT'S JUST WHERE WE'RE GOING!

HANG ON TO YOUR WATER-WINGS, SON! HERE'S WHERE WE FIND OUT IF THIS THING FLOATS!



Y-H-U-S INSIDE THE SEALED EARTH-BORER, THE TWO LUCKY MUTANTS AVOID THE SINISTER FATE WHICH HAS BEFALLEN THEIR FELLOW X-MEN...

...WHILE AT A SITE NOT FAR AWAY,
ANOTHER FIGURE APPROACHES.
A SECOND SMALL BODY OF WATER--
THE FORMIDABLE FIGURE OF TYRANNUS!

BEFORE I SEND MY COBALT
WARRIOR INTO COMBAT I
MUST FIRST SIP THE WATERS
OF THIS FABLED POOL!

IN MY LAST ENCOUNTER
THE MOLE MAN CAPTURED
THESE GROUNDS--AND
THEREBY ALMOST
DEFEATED ME!

FOR I CANNOT
LIVE WITHOUT DRINKING
DAILY FROM... THE FOUNTAIN
OF YOUTH!

AS CLAMOR... SLY CHRONICLED
IN ASTONISHING BO--OR DID
WE SAY THAT ALREADY?
--INSECURE STAN.

BE LONG, I SHALL DRINK THE
PRECIOUS LIQUID ON THE SURFACE,
FROM WHICH I WAS BANISHED
CENTURIES AGO!

TOOK THE
MOLE MAN
-- TOMORROW
THE WORLD!

YET NO SOONER HAS TYRANNUS RETURNED TO HIS OWN THRONE ROOM WHEN--

EXCELLENCY!
THE DIAMOND CREATURE
AGAIN ATTACKS OUR
CITADEL--THIS TIME
MORE FERCELY
THAN EVER!

BUT, THIS TIME TYRANNUS
IS PREPARED FOR ITS
ONSLEIGHT!

SUMMON
THE CAPTIVE
SURFACE-
DWELLER
TO ME!

HURRY,
FOOL! WE
DARE NOT
DELAY!

AND, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TYRANNUS KNOWS WHEREOF HE SPEAKS!
FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE MOAT WHICH SURROUNDS THE
DARKNESS OF SHROUDED PALACE...



A POWERFUL
BLADE OF THE
DIAMOND
SLICES THROUGH
A DOG-MAN
WATCH-TOWER...

THEN A FEW HEARTBEATS LATER...

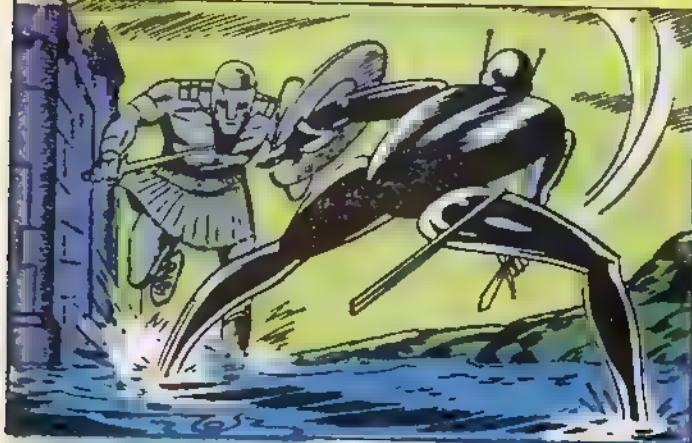
SO THAT'S WHY
YOU NEEDED MY
SUPER-
COBALT!

WHAT ELSE
COULD STAND
A CHANCE
AGAINST A
ROBOT OF
DIAMOND?

TRUE,
ROBERTS!
WE WERE
SOBELY
REWARD...

BUT NOW SEE
HOW THE GLITTERING
ANDROID TURNS!

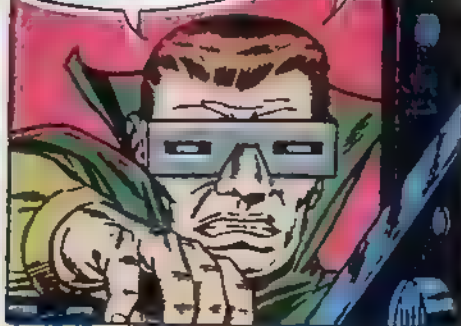
AND, TURN IT DOES--AS ITS ELECTRONICALLY-ACTIVATED EYES
BEHOLD A GIGANTIC, FEARSOME APPARITION THUNDERING ITS WAY...



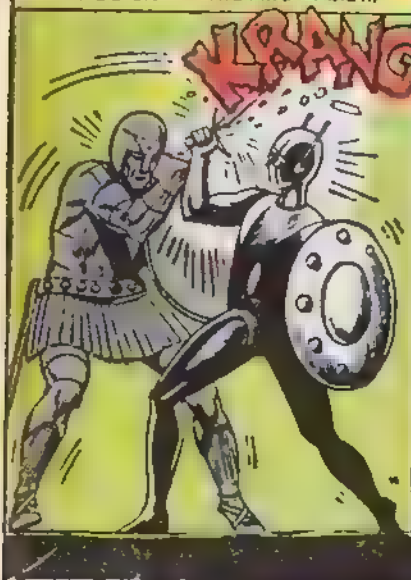
THE INFERNAL TYRANNUS
HAS DEVISED SOME MECH-
ANIZED WARRIOR OF HIS
OWN!

YET, DIAMOND IS THE
HARDEST OF SUBSTANCES!
HOW CAN MY FOR HOPE
TO WIN?

STILL, I SHALL
ORDER MY THREE
MUTANT SLAVES
TO STAY BACK--
IN CASE THE
IMPOSSIBLE
HAPPENS!



BUT, THE NEXT MOMENT, AS TWO MAMMOTH
FORMS CLASH FOR THE FIRST TIME...



...IT SPEEDILY BECOMES CLEAR THAT
THE IMPOSSIBLE IS HAPPENING!!



BACK--
EVER BACK
THE STRICKEN
DIAMOND
ANDROID
IS DRIVEN BY
THE COBALT
WARRIOR
--AS THE
CATAPHONIC
SOUNDS OF
COMBAT ECHO THRU
THE TWILIGHT
CAVERNS--

HARDER, YOU
BRAINLESS BRUTE--
HARDER!! TYRANNUS
MUST HAVE VENGEANCE
FOR THE INDIGNITIES
SUFFERED AT THE
HANDS OF THE
MOLE MAN'S MUTE
MONSTER!



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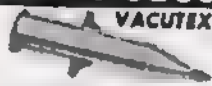
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BUT AS THE DIAMOND ROBOT FALLS--THE IMMINENT VICTIM OF A STRONGER, MAN-MADE ALLOY--AN UNEXPECTED FORCE ENTERS THE FRAY.

WE MUST DESTROY THE WARRIOR ANDROID--FOR THE ROLE MAN!

AND YET THE STRANGE TELEKINETIC POWERS I POSSESS, CANNOT TOPPLE IT.

WHAT WE CANNOT DO BY SHEER STRENGTH WE MUST ACCOMPLISH BY OTHER MEANS!

TRY TO HOLD THE MONSTER BACK--WHILE I RESUE MY PLAN!

THOUGH THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL DOES NOT REMEMBER HIS TRUE IDENTITY HE STILL RETAINS HIS PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE--AND SO.

OUR Foe SEEMS TO SEE ELECTRONICALLY--WITH SOME SORT OF BUILT-IN RADAR!

IF SO THEN MAYBE THE HANDFUL OF MUD AND ROCKS WILL DO WHAT THE DIAMOND CREATURE COULD NOT!

THEN, AS THE SPINNING MUD AN' FEELS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO HIS PREY.

YOU TWO STAY BACK! THE ANDROID IS MINE!

MUST ATTACK WITH SPEED SO THE TIMING IS IN ORDER WORK--

NOW!

I DID IT! I GOT SO CLOSE THAT ITS BLADE CANT REACH ME!

BUT HE'LL SHAKE ME OFF IN A MOMENT! MUST HOPE THIS METAL-LADEN MUD DOES THE TRICK.

INSTANTLY LATER AS THE ANGEL HAS SOARED TO A PLACE OF SAFETY...

THE ROBOT WAS BLINDED--AS I HOPED--BY THE MAGNETISM AND SILICATES IN THE MUD.

IT FELL INTO THAT LAVA-HEATED MUD! BUT WHAT MADE IT EXPLODE??

WHILE FROM A VANTAGE POINT ABOVE, TYRANNUS WONDERS THE SAME THING...

HOW COULD MERE HEAT DESTROY MY ANDROID -- WHEN DIAMOND COULD NOT-- UNLESS--?

HE REALIZES THAT I SABOTAGED IT -- BY MIXING SUBSTANCES WITH LOW HEAT RESISTANCE INTO ITS COBALT ARMOR!

IF I DON'T ACT FAST-- I'M A DEAD MAN!

OKAY, WORLD-BEATER-- LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE WITHOUT A TEN-TON ROBOT TO BACK YOU UP!

I'M A BIT PAST MY COLLEGE BOXING PRIME-- BUT, I'M BETTING I CAN STILL TAKE YOU!

WOK!

SUNNNNIE HURRY, YOU WITLESS FOOL!

AND, BEFORE RALPH CAN MAKE HIS ESCAPE...

WE HAVE HIM, EXCELLENCY

MAYBE SO -- BUT YOU DON'T HAVE MY SUPER-COBALT FORMULA!

AND YOU NEVER WILL!

PERHAPS -- BUT YOU SHALL NOT LIVE TO BOAST OF YOUR ACTIONS!

MEANWHILE ALMOST DIRECTLY BELOW...

THAT RAY BLAST-- IT MUST HAVE COME FROM TYRANNUS HIMSELF!

HE'S IN THAT TOWER-- WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF TROOPS!

WE MUST CAPTURE HIM -- AS WE WERE COMMANDED!

THUS, STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MISTS OF LETHY, THE TRO ATTACK...

WHO ARE YOU -- AND WHY DO YOU FIGHT FOR THE MOLE MAN?

WE ARE HIS LOYAL SERVANTS-- HE IS OUR MASTER!

THE ANGEL! THANK HEAVEN!

YET-- WHY DOES HE SAY HE'S THE SLAVE OF TYRANNUS' FOE?

MY LEVITATIONAL POWER BROUGHT US HERE-- NOW TO STOP TYRANNUS!

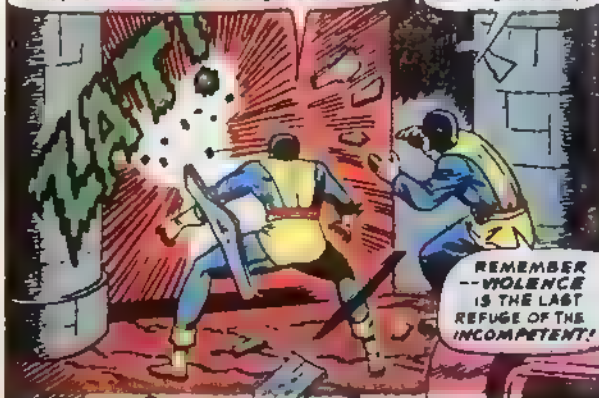
WHILE YOU DO, I'LL IMMOBILIZE THESE LOVELIES!

CAN'T MOVE! THE GRL IS HOLDING ME-- SOMENOW!

MEANWHILE, HAVING REACHED THE NEARBY STRONGHOLD OF THE MOLE MAN, CYCLOPS AND THE BEAST ARE PURSUING PLANS OF THEIR OWN...

THE OTHER X-MEN'S TRACKS LED HERE-- AND, NOTHING'S KEEPING US OUT!

BUT GENTLY, AD--GENTLY!



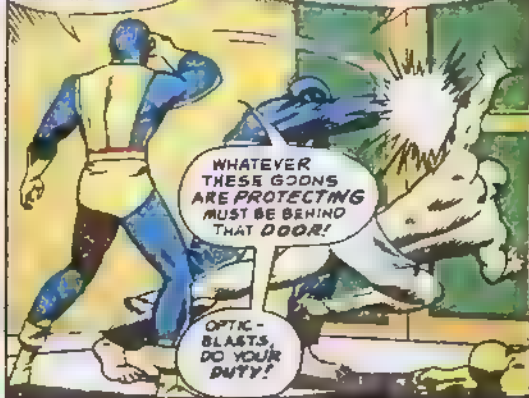
REMEMBER --VIOLENCE IS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE INCOMPETENT!

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE...

YOU FORGET MY ALTERNATE ADAGE MR SUMMERS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR POLICY OF NON-AGGRESSION, MR MCCOY?

A FOOLISH CONSISTENCY IS THE HOBGBUSTLE OF LITTLE M'NDS!



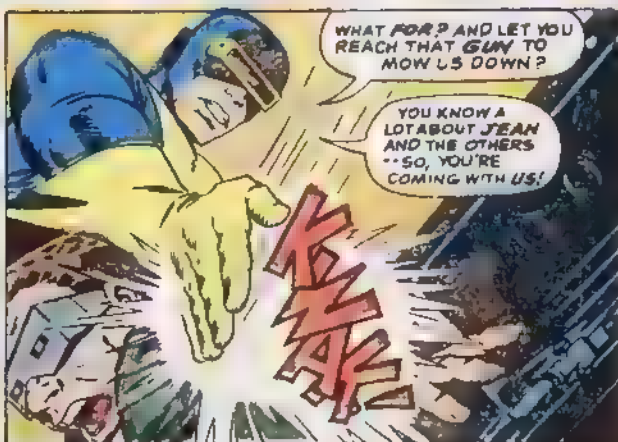
WHATEVER THESE GOONS ARE PROTECTING MUST BE BEHIND THAT DOOR!

OPTIC-BLASTS, DO YOUR DUTY!

AND, INDEED, THE MUTANTS' DEPUTY LEADER WAS NEVER RIGHTER...

WHAT--WHO'S THAT? HAVE MY X-MEN SLAVES RETURNED--?

NO--WAIT! IT'S TWO MORE OF THEM! KEEP BACK!!



WHAT FOR? AND LET YOU REACH THAT GUY TO MOW US DOWN?

YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT JEAN AND THE OTHERS --SO, YOU'RE COMING WITH US!

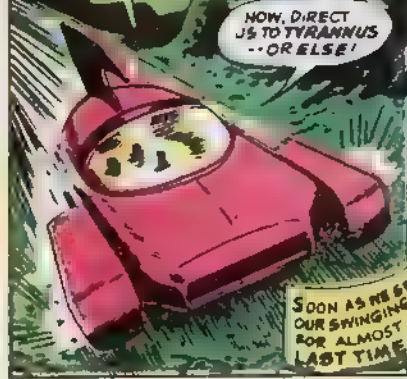
THEN, WITH A SLIGHTLY DAZED MOLE MAN IN TOW AS HOSTAGE, THE INTREPID PAIR ARE OFF ONCE MORE ON THEIR DESPERATE MISSION...

I TELL YOU, YOUR FELLOW X-MEN ARE MY ALLIES--IN MY BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL TYRANNUS!

YOU MUST BELIEVE ME--I MEAN THE OUTER WORLD NO HARM!

SORRY, MOLEY-- BUT, WE'VE SEEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S FILE ON YOU, SO IT'S NO NO DICE!

NOW, DIRECT US TO TYRANNUS --OR ELSE!



SOON AS WE SWITCH OUR SWINGING SCENE FOR ALMOST THE LAST TIME--

FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, THERE'S BEEN A REAL BATTLE ROYAL GOING ON HERE! I--ANGEL! WHAT'RE YOU--?

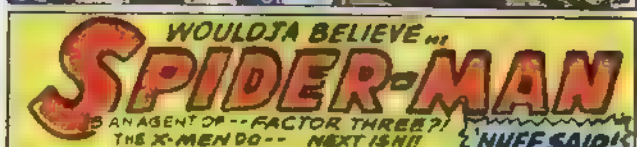
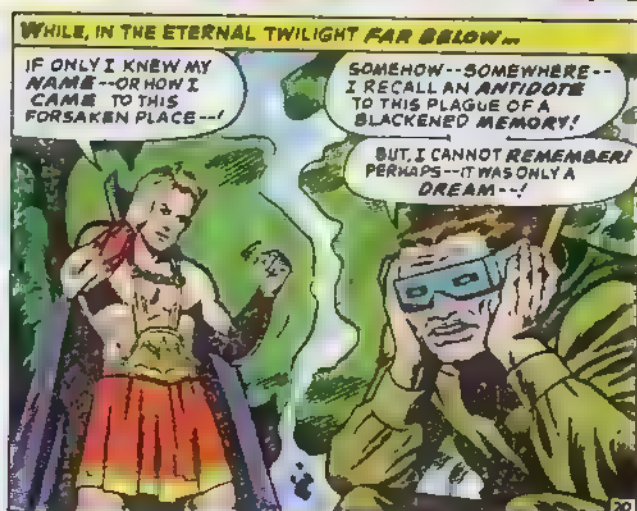
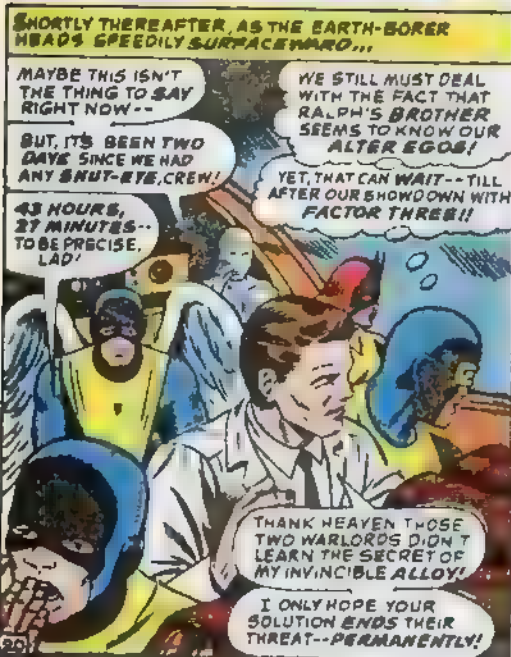
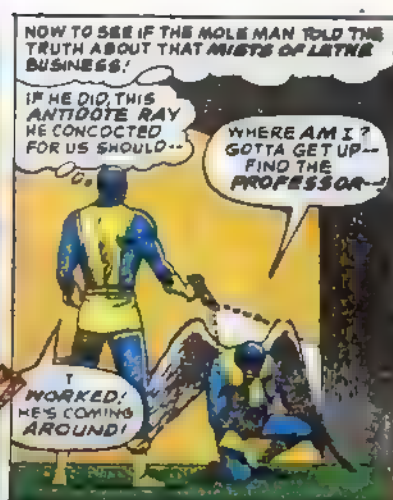
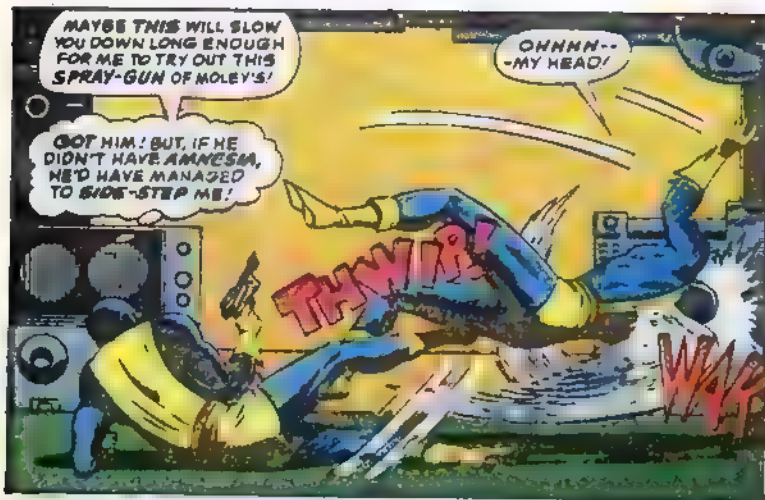
YOU'VE DARED LAY HANDS ON THE MASTER! FOR THAT YOU MUST DIE!

I FORGOT! THE MOLE MAN SAID THE OTHERS ARE UNDER THE SPELL OF THE RIVER LETHE!

LOOK OUT, SCOTTY! HE'S TRAVELING WITH ENOUGH VELOCITY TO DEMOLISH YOU--!



DON'T WANT TO HURT WARREN! MUST STOP HIM WITHOUT USING MY OPTIC BLASTS!



NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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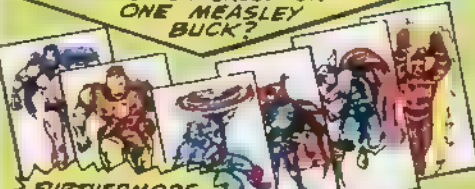
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MAKE ME A MAGNLOQUENT MERRY MARCHER AND RUSH ME MY
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NOTE TO PRESENT MEMBERS: WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU.
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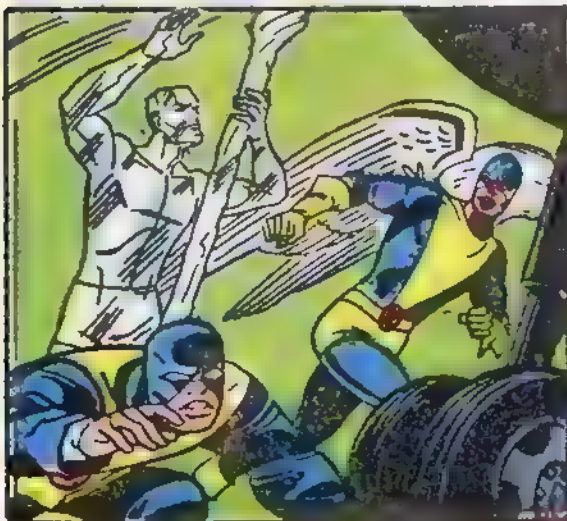
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

I am a very big fan of Marvel Comics, and my favorites
are THE X-MEN and SPIDER-MAN. What I want to
bring to your attention is a question I have from X-MEN
#30. I have just started to read THE X-MEN and I came
across a picture of Professor X. It seems that you have him
walking in one scene. I'm wondering if he is totally crip-
pled or just partially? Thank you.

PFC Daniel Hammond, 1 Det 97th M P Co.
APO, New York, N. Y. 09011

'Tis we who should thank you, soldier—for tossing us
a question that we can answer without needing to re-
sort to a cop-out or an encyclopedia! Charles Xavier
developed a pair of metallic mechanical legs in X-Men
#23, and has used them on several occasions since—
one of them being in ish #30. However, they are not
yet perfected, which is why he generally saves them
for emergencies. There—that oughta prove that we
can give a straight answer when we have to. But, it
was a real strain, so don't expect us to do it too often,
hear?



Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

First of all, I would like to comment on X-MEN #30.
I think that it was one of the best ever. I love the way that
the X-Men fought against the Warlock, and the scenes

were terrific. I am an artist and I love the fine art done,
not to mention the supreme action and writing. But re-
garding the Mimic staying in the X-Men, I think that it
should not be that way. Although I have no quarrel with
him, I just think that the X-Men should stay just the way
they are now. I think that Scott is the only one who is
qualified to be the deputy leader. THE X-MEN is my fa-
vorite mag., and I love anything that has to do with it.
All I hope is that the X-Men stay together—and I am
thrilled over their new uniforms!

Michael Jones, 1866 Danvill Rd.
Memphis, Tenn. 38117

Shucks, Mike—if you think the X-Men are something,
you should see MILLIE THE MODEL! As for the
malevolent Mimic, we're holding him in abeyance
(Abeyance, Nebraska—pop. 375) until we decide just
what to do with him. Or until we completely forget
him—whichever comes first! What say you, true be-
lievers—should we co-star the irascible Mr. Rankin
from time to time, or let him become the world's
youngest retired super-hero? It's up to you, O Col-
lective Keepers of the Flame—('cause we'd rather pass
the buck!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

I have just finished reading X-MEN #30 and, on the
whole, it was a very good ish. I like the way the Beast
got into a lot of the action. The only thing I didn't like
about your past three tales is that they've only been one
part stories. Please have possibly your next ish or the
earliest ish you can be a continued one. I would also like it
very much if you got a couple of the X-Men's old villains
back for a reunion—that would be very exciting—especial-
ly if it were about four parts long!

William Kindler, 215 Woodshire Dr.
Mankato, Minn.

Stick around, Bill—we've got plans to bring back sev-
eral of the malevolent mutant menaces whom the
X-Men fought in earlier issues, and you'll probably
be seeing them just when you least expect it! As for
continued stories, though, we sort'a prefer treating
each ish as a separate story whenever we can, just ty-
ing the various titanic tales together with an underly-
ing thread of continuity! When we finally get around
to presenting the showdown with Factor Three in a
couple of issues, however, you can bet it's gonna take
more than twenty pages to finish off that little combo!
Remember our undying motto (which we just made
up)—there's something for everybody in the Marvel
Age of Comics—except for unrepentant Irving!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

You finally did it! I showed my teacher one of your X-MEN books, and, no kidding, she told me to bring more, and I did. This is still going on. Finally, we are now saving enough money to buy a subscription to THE X-MEN. Now, at our school, Marvel is in!

Steve Ketchum, 2702 Range Line
Joplin, Mo. 64801

And so are you, Steve, since you are hereby the enraptured recipient of a free sub to this masterful mag! But, Rascally Roy says he isn't at all surprised that your teacher liked the X-MEN ishes you showed her—since he himself is a former high school teacher, and says he knows what good taste educators generally display! (Or, who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Unrelenting, Unabashed Modesty?)



Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

O error unforgivable! O monumental goof! O tragedy unpardonable! X-MEN #30 had great potential but ended up a mess. First of all, Werner was doing a marvelous job on the X-Men. I picked up my new issue trembling, to read the epochal record of wondrous deed and see how the X-Men would polish off this one. I opened the cover and something looked different. I turned the page and, sure enough, something was amiss. The artwork was not stunning and breathtaking, it was merely good! Then, on page 3, we see the Professor in a very un-professor Xavier-like pose with Jean. But then I saw it, the most epochal mistake in eons on page 14 at the bottom. Cyke blasted away at something without looking directly at it, but, worst of all, he didn't move his visor! Then it happened again and again. For this I demand your artist get the worst of tortures, yes, an hour with nothing to read but Brand Echh. What's more, I think the Warlock was too powerful to be packed away in one issue. As of late, X-Men has been overflowing with baddie mutants. Since there are some good ones (I hope), I think we should see a new X-Man every 18 months or so. And with the words of Queen Isabella—"Who cares about America, Chris—didn't you bring back any Marvels?"—I bid thee farewell!

Warren Levine, 15 Quakerok Rd.
Levittown, Pa. 19057

Don't sign off yet, Worry—not till you tell us this Queen Isabella's address, anyway! She sounds like our kind'a gal, and we're gonna send her a free subscription! As for the talented Mr. Roth, we're bettin' you'll really dig the action next ish when he presents his own visually-stimulating version of your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man in pitched battle with the X-Men! 'Nuff said?

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

Like so many others, I am a true believer in the merry world of Marveldom. Being a senior philosophy major at California State College in Los Angeles, I can truthfully say that more often than not, your comics have more philosophical and psychological implications than many of my textbooks. Many of your very lifelike super-heroes seem to express a point of view similar to predestination. They often speak of the inevitability of the occurrence of certain events as if they were predestined. Do most of your heroes believe in predestination? And, if they do, how is it that they battle so hard against the forces of evil which would appear to be destined? Also, who would do the predestining in their estimation? God? And if so, which God? I remain an ardent, faithful follower of Irving Forbush—I mean Marvel! Martin Tacher, 256 W. Verdugo
Burbank, Cal. 91502

Okay, Martin, it's that rarest of all merry Marvel happenings—namely, Serious-Answer Time! Our characters are all men (and women) of action, and therefore cavort thru our pages like avid devotees of the doctrine of free will, which is the exact opposite of predestination. However, just like flesh-and-blood human beings, they are often confronted with events which are larger than themselves—perhaps larger than life itself—and which remind them that man is not, after all, entirely the master of his own fate! It is this inner turmoil—the eternal conflict between man-as-mover and man-as-puppet—that adds the dynamic dimension of realism to Marvel's super-hero sagas! (And now that *that's* over with, we'll get back in our tree until some other frantic one asks us to give our definition of the purpose of life—in 25 words or less!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner,

I just can't believe this! In X-MEN #31 in the letters page you apologized for a mistake you never made! Allow me to quote part of a letter there—"On page 15, in panel 1, you have depicted Jean tossing a screwdriver to Hank. However, she states in the balloon, 'Here are your pliers, Hank!'" This is referred to in the same letter as a horrendous error, a crass error, and an inexcusable error. I don't think it was any kind of error at all! Just ask Roy or Werner. If you will examine the aforementioned panel, you'll see that the word "pliers" is written in large, dark letters that call attention to it. The Beast replies, "You're a credit to your gender, Jeanie." Don't you realize that her statement was just a joke about a female's limited knowledge of such tools?? I thought you'd really give it to them in your answer to that letter, but you apologized! As I said, Roy will tell you that it was purposely written that way!

Peter von Sholly, Rt. #1, Box 148
Chatham, N. Y. 12037

Sure he will—now that you've obligingly handed him the answer on a silver-plated platter! Before then, all he did was walk around the Bullpen mumbling, "I *knew* I shouldn't have dropped out of that high school shop class after two weeks!" Now, he's suddenly decided that he's the soul of subtlety and a virtual wizard of wit—while Wondrous Werner tells us that, all along, he thought he had drawn a monkey-wrench! Oh well...

NEXT ISH: It hadda happen! Sooner or later, comicdom's most misunderstood super-loner would tangle with comicdom's most misunderstood super-group! So, be sure to latch on to X-MEN #35, when Marvel's mighty mutants clash head-on with... the Amazing Spider-Man! You see, it all starts when Cerebro reports that Spidey is an agent of Factor Three, and—but, why go on? If you're not sold by now, we might as well kill the whole idea and guest-star Aunt Patunia, instead! (As a final grabber, though, we can't resist mentioning that the bombastic Banshee—who inspired a bigger landslide of laudatory letters than any mutant baddie in ages—pops up next ish as a hero—just in case we haven't thoroughly confused you yet!) Till then, face front—and don't forget to stay away from the Mists of Lethe—we wouldn't wantcha to get the sniffles!

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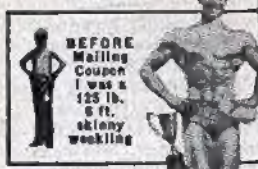
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says Felipe Mendez

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